

## January – A Time to Re-new our Commitment to God’s justice

- *Be the change you wish to see in the world.*

Mahatma Gandhi

### A NEW YEAR PRAYER

As we begin another year let us pause to remember all those who long for a new beginning, a fresh start, or a new life. In the Old Testament, the prophets spoke about a Jubilee year, This was a time when debts were forgiven, slaves set free, fields allowed to rest and right relationships restored. A Jubilee year is as much needed today as in biblical times.

Think of those who live in the shadow of hunger, poverty, unemployment, debt, sickness, repression, injustice. Think of those in our own community without jobs and perhaps forced to leave family and friends to find a new life in another country. Think of those who, in past years, have come here to Ireland for the same reasons.

Like the prophets of old, we, as Christians, abhor all that threatens life. We want to announce the fullness of life; where the human dignity of all is respected. Work, education, health, housing, a decent life for all.

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:  
a world where the weak are protected, and no one goes hungry;  
a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;  
a world where different cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;  
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.  
We pray for a world renewed with your spirit.  
With the Lord of history who makes all things new. Amen

God, send us forth with your blessing that we might do your work in accordance with your will. May we be a Jubilee Congregation, a people of Christ who work for justice and peace, and who make right relationships. May we not shy away from taking the action that will save lives and make positive change. Be with us as we stand with our neighbours around the world calling for a new world, where all of your children are valued. With you Lord, we will make all things new. AMEN.

### Justice Dates for January

- 2012 is the International Year of Cooperatives, launched on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Cooperatives are based on values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity - *“it’s essentially about meeting human need, not human greed.”* <http://www.2012.coop/> - for more information on why cooperatives are so important for equality, trade and financial justice.
- January 15<sup>th</sup> is World Religion Day, emphasising interfaith understanding, spiritual harmony, human unity and true equality.